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BSS EXAMINER NEWS – COVID-19

COVID-19 News Boat Safety Scheme Examinations Temporary Suspension

Following the most recent announcement from the Prime Minister regarding the UK's response to the coronavirus crisis, the joint owners of the Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) have decided to allow boat owners a temporary waiver from the requirement for in-date BSS Certifications in order to licence craft, initially until 14 April. For Examiners, the decision leads to an immediate temporary suspension of BSS Examinations until April 14 supporting the government guidance on social distancing.

Both measures are subject to review against expected further government guidance on COVID-19. This has been a difficult but – given the advice - understandable decision. We understand that it will have an impact on many examiners during the next few weeks.

Navigation authorities or licensing bodies will expect that owners of boats with expired BSS Certifications catch up, once the temporary suspension is lifted.

We will be reminding boat owners that the BSS requirements remain in place and that they always need to keep their boats compliant. We are continuing to encourage owners to check their boat against the requirements using the BSS Examination Checking Procedures. Boat owners should also check any implications for their boat's insurance cover with the broker or underwriter linked to the temporary waiver of BSS Certification by the Scheme's owners.

As an additional measure we are delaying the annual registration until 30 April. All examiners currently registered will remain so until the renewal date. There will be no late fee charge this year.

We will be doing what we can to support our examiners and boating customers during this period so that we can return normal and see people enjoying the UK waterways fully as soon as possible.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you for your patience and forbearance and please stay safe during these unprecedented times.

Kind regards,

Kevin Tyson
BSS Manager